Carolina Pupils Demand Integration

(By Staff Correspondent)

BURNSVILLE, N.C.—Twenty-eight Negro children in this western North Carolina community are boycotting the public schools rather than take a daily 80-mile round trip over dangerous mountain roads to segregated schools in Asheville.

There is no school for Negroes in Yancey County, where Burnsville is located. A one-room, one-teacher school formerly in use was condemned in the summer of 1958; last year, 28 Negro pupils, the total in the county, were sent daily to Asheville 40 miles away.

This year, the Negroes decided they had had enough. They applied for admission to the "white" schools of Yancey County.

The School Board turned them down and promised to build them a school. But the same promise had been made last year and no start on a new school was evident. This year, the students said, they wanted neither a new segregated school nor a daily round trip to Asheville. They want integration at home.

The case seems headed for the federal courts. Meantime, the Negro elementary pupils are being tutored in a church here and high school students are living in Asheville and attending a private church institution. An interracial committee of Burnsville and Asheville citizens is raising money for these stopgap measures.

The situation was brought to statewide attention by the regional office of the American Friends Service Committee at High Point. The North Carolina Friends of SCEF and other groups have demanded integration of the Yancey County schools as the solution. Protests are needed to Gov. Luther Hodges and the State Board of Education at Raleigh.

The Southern PATRIOT

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Virginia 'Lockout'

(By Special Correspondent)

FARMVILLE, Va.—Here in Prince Edward County, more than 1,700 Negro pupils are without public schools, but they and their parents are refusing to ask state or local officials to help them set up private segregated classes.

Instead, they say, they will continue to work for a return to public education.

Prince Edward County this fall became the first community in the nation to completely abandon public education rather than integrate. The county was one of those involved in the original desegregation suits decided by the Supreme Court in 1954.

A federal court ordered that desegregation proceed there this fall. The county then went out of the public school business, and a private foundation set up classes for the county's 1,500 white students.

The foundation offered to help the Negro community set up private classes for the 1,750 Negro students. The offer was refused.

The Rev. L. Francis Griffin, county NAACP coordinator and also president of a new organization, the Prince Edward County Christian Association (PECCA), said:

"Our aim is to restore public schools. We don't believe private schools are the answer."

Accordingly, PECCA and the NAACP have launched a vigorous voter registration drive, with the announced aim of securing enough voters to elect officials "sympathetic to public schools." The state NAACP is also preparing legal action to force reopening of the schools. State law contains a mandate for public school operation.

A comparative handful of Negro students has gone elsewhere to school. A.M.E. Bishop Frank Madison Reid (an SCEF board member), chairman of the trustee board at Kittrell College in North Carolina, arranged for scholarships for some high school juniors and seniors there; about 50 have enrolled. A few have gone to other communities.

Others remain here and attempt to continue their studies at home. Mrs. James Wiley, Sr., parent of one senior, said she had advised her son to stay here.

"You can't solve any problem by running away," she said. "Once you start running, you will be running all your life."

Meantime, the white children attend school in 16 improvised buildings, mostly churches. Physical education classes, lunch-rooms and other facilities have been eliminated. In opening-day ceremonies, officials admonished the youngsters to "keep faith" and adapt to inconveniences to preserve "our way of life."

Commenting on the situation in its Newsletter, the Virginia Council on Human Relations called this occasion "the day we went back 100 years."

Vote Victory

NEW ORLEANS, La. — Civil rights won an important court round when Federal District Judge J. Skelly Wright denied a defendants' motion to dismiss a suit aimed at halting the purging of Negro voters from the rolls of Washington Parish.

The suit was filed by the U. S. Justice Department under the Civil Rights Act of 1957. Other federal courts in Alabama and Georgia have dismissed similar suits.

Defendants in the Louisiana action are the White Citizens Council, four of its members, and the parish registrar. Judge Wright said: "Instead of challenging the constitutionality of the Civil Rights Act of 1957, these defendants should be searching their souls to see if this charge is well founded."

Montgomery Puzzled

Delinquency Rate Rises

(By Special Correspondent)

MONTGOMERY, Ala. — There are two problems causing great concern in Montgomery today, but so far no one seems to see any connection between them.

One, of course, is the segregation-integration struggle. The other is juvenile delinquency.

In the segregation-integration struggle, segregation seems to have won overwhelmingly for the time being. Gov. John Patterson is pledged to fight to the death for it; the state's two senators are pledged by all that is holy to fight for it to the end; and so are all of the congressmen, all of the Legislature, all elected officials of every kind. No school official, no church official, no club officer—in fact no leader in the white community—says anything different publicly, and few privately.

The only struggle seems to be between various factions of segregationists. The Ku Klux Klan claims the White Citizens Council is too "soft" and made up of "Country Club segregationists," while the KKK members claim they are ready to die for their beliefs.

—St. Louis Post-Dispatch

He'll Show 'Em

As a matter of fact, one of them did die this fall—shot down by a restaurant owner, also segregationist, whom he had threatened over and over for hiring Negro waiters in place of white girls. His funeral was attended by hundreds of mourners and Klan emblems were stacked up by the dozens.

One of the victories Montgomery segregationists are now celebrating is the fact that all city parks are closed—and have been for almost a year. As soon as the Montgomery Improvement Association brought suit last winter to integrate the parks, they were closed and "NO TRESPASSING" signs were posted at all of them. Any child or adult, white or black, found in them is due for arrest. A federal court has ruled that if the parks reopen they must integrate; the city is appealing.

So far no white person has raised a single protest over the park closing. There have been no letters in the paper; no committees have been formed; no voice from the church, the PTA, the civic associations, or mother's clubs has been raised to say "What a mess."

But all of these voices are loud over "juvenile delin-

(Continued on Page 3)

A Southern Profile

'He Can't Learn Double-Talk'

(The Patriot was in the process of preparing one of its "profile" series on Aubrey Williams, leading Southern liberal and SCEF president, when P. D. East of Mississippi published a tribute to Aubrey in his inimitable Petal Paper. Since that tribute sums Aubrey up about as well as anyone could, we reprint it here.

(A native Alabamian, Aubrey grew up in Birmingham. His family, like many in the South had been ruined financially by the Civil War, and Aubrey learned early the meaning of Southern poverty. He rose to become director of the National Youth Administration in President Roosevelt's New Deal, where he led the historic program that trained America's unemployed youth and gave them jobs.

(Aubrey could never compromise his belief in equal rights for all people. Southern congressmen, angered by his insistence on equal opportunity and pay for Negro youth, finally drove him out of government. He then returned to Alabama and started a farm paper, The Southern Farm & Home, in Montgomery, where he still lives and works. There, despite threats, ostracism, and cries of subversion from such men as Sen. James Eastland, he has continued to lift his voice—often a lone white one in Alabama—in support of Southern Negroes' demands for equality and integration.

(P. D. East's tribute follows):

BY P. D. EAST

Aubrey Williams is a first-class screwball—and if you don't believe it, simply inquire of Westbrook Pegler.

By certain standards, and I hasten to add they're not mine, Aubrey is a menace to society as a whole. He has some ideas which, to put it mildly, are out-and-out radical. Aubrey Williams honestly believes that the poor folk have the same rights as the rich; he believes most sincerely that the Bill of Rights was intended to apply to all citizens of the United States; also, it is his notion that a Supreme Court Justice isn't needed to interpret the Bill of Rights.

Naturally, since he believes with such conviction these foolish things, he has worked hard his entire life to bring about equality under the law of the land; naturally, also, he has caught hell from all corners since a very young man.

Of course Aubrey has been accused of being a commie, socialist, free-thinker, atheist, and against American Motherhood as well. And why not? Along with FDR and Harry Hopkins and millions of others Aubrey believed

(Continued on Page 4)

Aubrey W. Williams

Review of the Month

Integration suffered a major setback when the U.S. Supreme Court, in effect, upheld North Carolina's pupil placement law. The Court refused to review two lower court rulings against Negroes who had sought to speed the integration process in Raleigh and Montgomery County, N. C. Pupil-placement laws have become the most effective line of defense against integration.

On the same day, however, the Supreme Court gave a major boost to civil rights. It refused to review a lower court ruling that overturned the conviction of a Negro who had appealed on the ground that Carroll County, Miss., where he was tried, systematically excludes Negroes from jury service. This is one of the Mississippi counties where Negroes can't vote, and jury lists are drawn from voter rolls. The decision means Mississippi must remove voting restrictions or face wholesale reversals of criminal convictions of Negroes.

A three-judge Federal court in Louisiana said the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights can't hold any more hearings there unless it drastically changes its procedures. The Commission said the decision puts it in a legal straitjacket and so it cancelled further hearings until the Supreme Court acts on the case. Meantime, another Federal judge in Louisiana ruled in favor of voting rights (see story on this page).

Southern state governments continued harassment of integrationist groups. On the heels of Tennessee's attack on Highlander Folk School (see October *Patriot*), Louisiana again enjoined NAACP activity in that state. The NAACP is fighting the ban in Federal court.

In Florida, a campaign to end the double standard of justice was intensified. (See story on page 4.)

The Southern Patriot

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News In Brief

The Virginia Congress of Parents & Teachers overwhelmingly approved a resolution favoring continued public education throughout the state. The measure, a part of the organization's proposed legislative program, received 20 of a possible 24 votes in district balloting and was reaffirmed at the state convention.

As mild as the measure may sound, it was a long step forward from last year's convention... when public school supporters had to fight nip and tuck for a "local option" resolution (giving each community the right to decide whether to keep or abolish its schools) and finally won this position by only a two-vote margin.

* * *

In Memphis, the eight Negro students who recently became the first of their group to enter Memphis State University denied press reports that they had agreed to a request from college officials that they voluntarily segregate themselves as to student lounges, cafeteria, athletic events, etc.

Said Ralph Prater, spokesman for the eight: "We did not commit ourselves to any segregated policies, and will not tolerate segregation . . . we intend to work, play, and study with other members of the student body so that we will get to know them and they will have the opportunity to know us . . ."

* * *

In St. Petersburg, Fla., the Rev. Alva Brock, president of the Council on Human Relations, called on the School Board "to show our good faith in the American Constitution" by making a start on integration.

* * *

In Hattiesburg, Miss., a Negro, Clyde Kennard, went to all-white Mississippi Southern College and tried unsuccessfully to enroll—and ended up getting arrested.

Officers stopped Kennard as he was leaving the campus and charged him with reckless driving and possessing whiskey. Kennard denied both charges. He is a former University of Chicago student.

* * *

Segregation in YMCA's and YWCA's in many parts of the country was attacked by AMEZ Presiding Bishop C. Ewbank Tucker (an SCEF board member) in an address to the Georgia Annual Conference of his church. Bishop Tucker said: "Either they should drop the discrimination or the term Christian."

* * *

In Miami, two members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) were attacked and beaten while participating with a mixed group in a "sit-in" at the lunch counter in Byrons Jackson's Department Store. The "sit-in" was part of the organization's nonviolent direct action designed to break down segregation.

Witnesses said the two CORE members did not retaliate in any way to the attack but in Municipal Court the next day one of them was fined $50 anyway—as was his attacker.

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement required by the Act of August 24, 1912, as Amended by the Acts of March 3, 1933, and July 2, 1946 (Title 39, United States Code, Section 233) showing the ownership, management, and circulation of The Southern Patriot, published monthly except July and August, at Nashville, Tenn., for October, 1959.

1. The names and addresses of the publisher, editor, managing editor, and business managers are: Publisher, Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., 822 Perdido St., New Orleans 12, La.; editors, Anne and Carl Braden, 4403 Virginia Ave., Louisville 11, Ky.

2. The owner is: Southern Conference Educational Fund, Inc., 822 Perdido St., New Orleans 12, La; Stockholders, none.

3. The known bondholders, mortgagees, and other security holders owning or holding 1 percent or more of total amount of bonds, mortgages, or other securities are: (If there are none, so state.) None.

JAMES A. DOMBROWSKI, Exec. Dir.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 16th day of September, 1959.

IRVING NOVICH.

(My commission expires at death.

'No Compliance'

CHARLOTTE, N. C. — There has been no real compliance in North Carolina with the Supreme Court's school desegregation ruling, the state's Human Relations Council charged recently.

The Council noted that although a few Negroes attend a few otherwise all-white schools, no community other than Chapel Hill has "so much as announced a plan for desegregation." It said further:

"The best that can be said for token integration is that it may in some cases be a preliminary step in advance of desegregation. The worst that can be said—and what seems nearer the truth— is that token integration is a necessary part of a well-thought-out scheme of evasion . . ."

Doctor Jailed

MONROE, N. C.—Dr. A. E. Perry, militant civil rights leader and vice-president of the Monroe NAACP, was jailed suddenly after his appeal of a prison sentence failed. He was accused of performing an abortion, a charge he claimed was a frame-up because of his civil rights activities. His friends urge protests to Governor Luther Hodges in Raleigh and President Eisenhower.

Book Notes

THE SOUTHERN TEMPER, by WILLIAM PETERS, Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, N. Y., $3.95.

This is a recapitulation of some recent events in the South and a description of some of the positive forces working to end segregation there. An especially valuable chapter documents the role of Federal agencies operating in the South in encouraging segregation—both by discriminating in employment and by harassing integrationists.

CREOLE AND CAJUNS, STORIES OF OLD LOUISIANA, by GEORGE WASHINGTON CABLE, Edited by Arlin Turner, Doubleday & Co., New York, $1.45.

America is rediscovering one of its great literary figures, George Washington Cable, a member of the Confederate cavalry and native of New Orleans who achieved international acclaim for his Creole and Cajun stories of old Louisiana.

Proud of the fame that had come to a native son, the South honored Cable, but angrily disowned him when he turned from fiction to politics, to champion civil rights for Negroes.

The reason for this renewed interest in Cable is that his writings are as fresh and timely as when they were written. Another reason is Arlin Turner, who three years ago published a most readable biography of Cable and who has now brought together for the first time the best of Cable's short stories.

Bits of History

Rankin Led Abolitionists

By DON WEST

John Rankin, one of the greatest of the 19th Century Abolitionists, was like many other foes of slavery a product of the freedom-loving Southern Appalachian Mountains. But when his first child was born he decided to leave his native state of Tennessee and go north, because he could not bear to rear a child on slave soil.

He and his wife and child set out for Ohio. On the way, they stopped off at Paris, Ky., where Rankin, a Presbyterian minister, preached and subsequently served four years as pastor at nearby Cane Ridge.

Three more children were born to the couple there, and the Rankins continued to be bothered with the thought of rearing a family on slave soil. He subsequently accepted a call to a church in Ripley, Ohio where he remained for 44 years.

The Rankins had 13 children with nine sons the sons serving the Union Army in the Civil War. John Rankin became a legend and an institution in the Underground Railroad and the Abolitionist cause. He was impatient with church sluggishness in reacting to injustice. "Let well enough alone" never satisfied him, when he knew "well enough" was wrong.

When the Presbyterian Church split into North and South jurisdictions, Rankin was too progressive for even the Northern branch. He therefore withdrew and formed the Free Presbyterian Church of America. The main plank of this church's program was the abolition of slavery.

John Rankin was not a gradual emancipationist, nor was he a colonizationist. He was first, last and always for immediate and speedy emancipation.

Rankin's activities, writings and good works for freedom were multitudinous. He naturally met much bitter abuse. Churches and meeting halls were closed to him; he was repeatedly mobbed, slandered and attacked. He was threatened with assassination—but he never faltered.

The latter day New England abolitionist, William Lloyd Garrison, considered himself a disciple of John Rankin, the Southerner. And Beecher called him "the father of Abolitionism, the Martin Luther of the cause."

SCLC Asks Federal Schools

COLUMBIA, S. C.—The Southern Christian Leadership Conference, at its fall meeting here, called for federalization of public schools wherever local officials refuse to provide them, as in Prince Edward County, Va. (See story on page 1.)

The SCLC also voted commendation to the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights for its recent report, and urged support for the proposals to establish federal registrars where local ones don't function and for a constitutional amendment to guarantee free and universal franchise throughout the nation.

In other actions, the delegates:

1. Declared that "token" integration may be a step in the right direction but "is only a beginning and not the end, and we urge that the struggle for complete desegregation be continued."

2. Endorsed the "unrelenting efforts of the NAACP to bring about complete desegregation . . ."

3. Empowered their president, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to join with other groups similarly concerned to see that the "burning demands of the Negro people be placed squarely and dramatically before the 1960 political conventions."

4. Deplored the attacks by Tennessee officials on Highlander Folk School at Monteagle, Tenn.

5. Reaffirmed their devotion to "the principle of social change through non-violent action."

'Why I Believe in Integration...'

Single-Taxer Sees No Other Honest Position

BY DONALD STEPHENS

(The author of this article lives in Arden, Del., near Wilmington, a community founded in 1900 by his father to demonstrate a system of land tenure whereby land is never sold but leased. Mr. Stephens has also assisted in founding two sister communities, Ardentown and Ardencroft, and is especially proud that one-third of the leaseholders in Ardencroft are Negroes. He is an SCEF board member and is active in many other groups working for peace and civil rights.)

Why do I believe in integration? Primarily because I had the rare good fortune to be born the son of a truly remarkable man—Frank Stephens. He was a thoroughgoing Jeffersonian democrat who believed that no man could possibly have any rights superior to any other.

The course of his whole life was changed when, as a young man, he chanced to read an amazing book *Progress & Poverty*, by one of America's great thinkers, the economist, Henry George. My father became an ardent friend of this man and an unceasing fighter for the principles he taught.

George preached that not only were men brothers but that since all men were children of a common Father, each had an equal right in the common heritage which no man created—the earth. He believed that most of the great scourges which plague mankind—poverty, ignorance, crime, etc.—arise because the few are permitted to hold as private property what rightfully belongs to all.

He demonstrated that this situation could be remedied by the state's annually collecting from each person who "owned" land its full economic rental value. Thus, he said, there would be no need for any other tax. His plan became known as the "Single Tax." Like Christianity, it as yet has been considered too simple a solution for general acceptance.

Donald Stephens

Followers of Henry George, by the very nature of their basic beliefs, become interested in all efforts to tear down barriers and inequalities between men. Growing up in this atmosphere, I naturally joined in various movements for the common good.

So of course I believe in integration. It is impossible for me to understand how anyone who professes belief in Christ's teachings and in democracy, and who deeply and honestly faces the question, can believe otherwise.

Carolinians Renew Vote Fight

(By Staff Correspondent)

WELDON, N. C.—The Walker-Lassiter Defense Fund voted to help Mrs. Louise Lassiter continue her fight to be allowed to register and vote in Northampton County. They are being assisted in this by the SCEF.

Last June the U. S. Supreme Court turned down an appeal on a suit by Mrs. Lassiter to test the constitutionality of the North Carolina literacy test for voting. She contends the law is being used to keep Negroes from registering and voting in this area.

She did not seek to test the law as applied, but only as written. As a result, the North Carolina Supreme Court held it constitutional and the U. S. Supreme Court refused to reverse the ruling.

However, the U. S. court did lay down several new and important principles which may lead to ending the use of literacy tests to keep Negroes from voting in the South. This was Mrs. Lassiter's original aim.

The high court declared: 1, that voting is a federal right subject to imposition of some state standards; 2, that state standards are subject to federal standards; 3, that a literacy test fair on its face may violate the 15th Amendment to the U. S. Constitution by the way it is applied; 4, that a literacy test is unconstitutional on its face if it is a device to make racial discrimination easy.

The Supreme Court appeared to feel that the North Carolina law is technically illegal, but avoided the question of constitutionality because the applicant did not raise the specific question of the law as applied. Mrs. Lassiter was denied the right to register when she refused to take the literacy test, although she reads and writes quite well.

The Supreme Court ruling opens the way to get the North Carolina courts to say whether registrars have the right to apply the law as they do. For example, some require applicants to write down the state constitution as it is read to them. Some give a test as to spelling, meaning, and pronunciation of words in the constitution.

Mrs. Lassiter contends that the law means merely the ability to read the constitution or to copy it down while reading from the text. If the North Carolina courts say the applicant must be able to write the constitution while it is read to him, then the applicant can appeal this ruling to the U. S. Supreme Court — provided this method has been attacked as discriminatory by the applicant.

Mrs. Louise Lassiter

The roundabout way of reaching the question is made necessary by the doctrine that all state remedies must be exhausted before the U. S. Supreme Court can grant relief.

A three-judge federal court is holding in abeyance another suit by Mrs. Lassiter. This was filed after she was refused the right to register because she mispronounced the word "indictment" while reading the state constitution aloud during her first attempt to register. This case also awaits exhaustion of state remedies.

President of the Walker-Lassiter Defense Fund is the Rev. Alexander D. Moseley, P. O. Box 47, Weldon, N. C., who is also chairman of North Carolina Friends of SCEF and vice-president of the Progressive Civic Union. Attorneys for Mrs. Lassiter are James R. Walker, Jr., Weldon, and Samuel Mitchell and Herman Taylor, Raleigh.

SCEF Unit Supports Vote Bill

RALEIGH, N. C.—North Carolina Friends of SCEF, at a meeting at Shaw University here, voted to conduct a campaign to build support for proposed legislation to set up a Federal Voter Registration Commission.

Such a commission would register voters where local officials refuse to do so. The Carolina group acted on the request of William P. Mitchell, of the Tuskegee Civic Association in Alabama. TCA is urging letters to congressmen and senators on this question.

SCEF Friends also voted to support the proposal for an amendment to the U. S. Constitution to provide for free and universal suffrage throughout the nation. Both this and the federal registrar proposal were recommended by the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights in its recent report.

All persons in North Carolina who have been denied the right to register because of race, religion, or color were asked to write to the chairman of the SCEF group, the Rev. Alexander D. Moseley, P. O. Box 47, Weldon, N. C.

The group also voted to protest the treatment of Negro children in Yancey County, N. C. (see story on page 1) and at Apex, N. C. near here. Authorities in Apex are transporting Negro children to a school 18 miles away rather than integrate their classrooms.

A protest was also voted against the persecution of Highlander Folk School in Monteagle, Tenn. (See story on page 4).

FEPC Pushed

SAN ANTONIO, Tex.—Wide community support is developing for passage of an FEPC ordinance by the City Council here.

Speakers favoring the measure at a recent hearing before the Council included representatives of the Baptist Ministers Union, the American GI Forum, the Christian Social Relations Department of the San Antonio Council of Churches, the NAACP, Unitarian Fellowship for Social Justice, and others.

—Tri-State Defender Photo

A SIGN OF THE TIMES is this discarded placard standing by a trash can at the Greyhound bus terminal in Memphis. The station's "colored" and "white" signs came down after protests to the Civil Rights Commission, the FBI, and the Interstate Commerce Commission by the Binghampton Civic League, a new organization working to speed integration in Memphis. The Tri-State Defender, which had predicted last April that the signs would soon be down, checked with H. V. Greenslit, Southeastern Greyhound president, and he verified the change in policy. "We have no Negro or white waiting rooms, and that is our policy now all over the state of Tennessee," Greenslit said

Delinquency Rises

(Continued from Page 1)

quency," which seems to have become rampant in this city.

There was a wave of robberies at a nearby lake last summer, and homes were entered and burglarized. A group of boys and girls were arrested, and some are now serving terms in prison.

There have been numerous instances of young people found in vacant houses, having what the papers refer to as "sex parties," with beer and whiskey.

One group of boys went into a tavern with auto chains in their hands and tore the place up. The proprietor came out with a gun; when the youngsters defied him, he fired a shot. He said it was only to "warn" them, but unfortunately the bullet ricocheted and one of the boys was killed.

There was a big funeral, all of the boy's football mates were pallbearers, and everyone was saddened by the tragedy. It seems that while he had fallen in with a bad gang he was fundamentally a fine boy.

So there has been great public indignation and a demand for a "Court of Domestic Relations" to deal with these mounting problems. All the leading civic voices have been busy demanding a new court, a new judge and new social workers, and legislation has been passed authorizing the new judgeship.

In the meantime, during all the long hot summer of 1959 the swimming pool was empty, the tennis courts were vacant, the swings and merry-go-rounds were idle. The NO TRESPASSING signs were at every park entrance, and police came by regularly in squad cars to see that no one disobeyed them. Children played in the streets, and public indignation also grew over the mounting number of street accidents.

And in the green, cool and beautiful parks, only the dogs—black, white, and brown—ignored the "NO TRESPASSING" signs they could not read and took their ease upon the grass.

In South Carolina's Clarendon County, 78 Negro children petitioned school authorities for transfers to now all-white schools. This is the county where one of the original school suits, decided in 1954, was begun.

A Church Decides

BY CATHERINE BARKER

MARYVILLE, Tenn.—Several years ago New Providence Presbyterian Church here had to decide what it believed about integration and the church.

The Summer School of the South, a leadership training school conducted by the Presbyterian Board of Christian Education, was to be held at Maryville College. It would be an interracial conference.

A course on leadership of a Vacation Church School was offered. Permission was asked to use the New Providence church facilities for this demonstration class, which would include both Negro and white teachers, children and observers.

Permission was granted, and the first year no objection was raised. But before time for the school the next year opposition was organized and the governing board of the local church, the Session, was asked to refuse permission for the use of the building by interracial groups.

The Session considered the matter seriously. It was suggested that perhaps it would be better to forbid such use for a year or two until all the people were willing, and the Session seemed about ready to vote this course of action.

But sometimes a single voice speaking a sincere conviction can change the course of events. At that point one man stood up and said:

"If the Christian Church won't take the lead in this thing, how can we expect anyone else to? Can we be truly Christian and close our doors to any other Christian?"

The Session decided there could be only one consistent answer. One woman left the church.

The class has been held at New Providence Church each year since then. The ministers have taken a strong stand from the pulpit, never wavering in their interpretation of New Testament Christianity as making discrimination impossible in the Christian Church. All the attendants at the training school on the college campus are welcomed at all services at the church.

Last winter the white and Negro presbyteries in this area merged into one Union Presbytery. It seems likely that the decision of the New Providence Session and its acceptance by the congregation helped pave the way for this step.

Arlington Citizens Protest Ban on Dances

(By Special Correspondent)

ARLINGTON, Va.—When the School Board met to decide whether to discontinue school dances because of the token integration in this community's schools, it was deluged with demands from both students and parents that the dances continue.

The deluge didn't stop the board from voting an end to the dances. But it did demonstrate that citizens of this northern Virginia community have not generally been frightened by the bogeyman scare talk of the segregationists.

Three formerly white schools in Arlington—one elementary, one junior high and one senior high—now have a handful of Negro students.

The School Board met in the Little Theatre of Washington-Lee High School, and the auditorium was filled to overflowing. About half of the spectators were students.

One observer reported: "The board was obviously perfectly aware that the overwhelming majority were against cancelling the dances. The P.T.A. and all of the student organizations had urged them not to curtail activities, and many parents had written them expressing the same view."

The number of speakers was limited because the Board had at the last minute moved the meeting from 8 o'clock to 7 o'clock, so that it was over before many who had planned to speak arrived. Nevertheless, five of the eight who spoke favored continuing the dances. These included the Rev. Sidney Lovett, chairman of the Arlington Council on Human Relations, and Carl G. Estabrook, president of the Washington-Lee P.T.A.

The greatest applause came after the remarks of a parent, Lindsay Harmon. He said: ". . . we live in a world that is mostly colored . . . and we should adjust our policies accordingly." When he sat down, the applause was deafening.

The board's final vote was 4-1 to discontinue the dances. *The Washington Post*, suggesting that the action resulted partly from the board's fear of reactions in other parts of Virginia, commented: "The . . . compromise may have been shrewd; but it was also sadly shortsighted."